



The Helena Public Schools educate, engage, and empower each student to maximize his or her individual potential with the knowledge, skills and character essential to being a responsible citizen and life-long learner.

Board of Trustees – Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee:

Libby Goldes, Committee Chair
Terry Beaver, Committee Member
John McEwen, Committee Member

Others:

Tyler Ream, Superintendent
Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
Barb Ridgway, Chief of Staff
Stacy Collette, Human Resources Director
Kalli Kind, Facilities Director
Elizabeth Kaleva, Attorney
Jane Shawn, HEA President

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Committee Chair, Libby Goldes.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

There were no requested changes to the agenda.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. REVIEW OF 03.03.2020 POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

There were no requested changes to the previous meeting's minutes.

V. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR THIRD REVIEW

A. Policy 9002: Facilities Master Plan

Ms. Goldes asked the committee if they would like to forward the policy to the Board for approval. Mr. Beaver recommended adding a bullet point addressing completed, ongoing, and anticipated projects along with associated costs and sources of funding. Ms. Ridgway recommended adding that information to the second bullet. The committee agreed to the recommendations, and the policy will be forwarded to the Board.

B. Policy 9210: Site Acquisition

Ms. Ridgway confirmed some of the previously questioned language was directly from statute. The committee agreed to forward this policy to the full Board.

C. Policy 9232: Educational Specifications

Ms. Ridgway described the change to this policy as the incorporation of language from Policy 9055. Mr. Beaver referenced Line 16 and recommended “board” be removed. Ms. Ridgway agreed to remove. Ms. Ridgway added that in Line 14, “extra-curricular” had been included per the previous committee meeting. The committee agreed to forward this policy to the full Board.

VI. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR SECOND REVIEW

A. Policy 9035: Property, Plant, and Equipment Records

Ms. Ridgway met with District Business Services Administrator, Janelle Mickelson, regarding the use of assets and capital assets in the policy. Ms. Mickelson expressed concern over the \$5000 figure for capital assets, and recommended confirming if federal grants used the \$5000 figure. If so, the policy should reflect the same amount. The committee raised a few questions and agreed to have Ms. Mickelson join the next policy committee meeting. The policy will be brought back to the next policy committee meeting.

B. Policy 9150: School Closure

Ms. Ridgway described this policy as stemming from a district court case resulting from the closure of Ray Bjork. Ms. Kaleva said the district court had been unable to locate the case. According to the attorney at the time, the ruling was that the trustees have a lot of discretion as long as a policy has been adopted regarding school closure. Mr. Beaver asked if this policy applied to closing all district facilities as was the case due to COVID-19. Ms. Kaleva clarified this policy applied to the emergency closures of a singular school. Ms. Ridgway asked if the committee has the latitude to revise the policy as deemed appropriate. Ms. Kaleva said it would behoove the committee to spend some time revisiting the policy. The committee agreed to bring the policy back to the committee.

VII. PRESENTATION OF POLICIES FOR FIRST REVIEW

A. Policy 1900: COVID-19 Emergency Policies

According to Ms. Ridgway, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) recommended the following changes:

- Lines 36-41 be removed.
- Lines 43-47 be added.
- Removing the June 30 date so the policy would be applicable until it was removed.

This policy will be sent to the full board.

B. Policy 1906: Student Instruction and Services

Ms. Ridgway said the additional language in this policy mirrored what MTSBA recommended. She specifically noted Lines 28-32, which were directly from MTSBA and included a direct citation to the constitution. Mr. Beaver asked for clarification on Lines 7-8. Ms. Kaleva said these policies

were not required by law but were intended for communication. She recommended removing the last paragraph. The committee agreed to the removal and will present the policy to the board.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT / BOARD COMMENTS

There was no Superintendent's Report. Ms. Goldes recommended the maintenance of policies, continuing with the 3000 Series. The committee agreed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair, Ms. Goldes, adjourned the meeting at 12:35pm.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2020